

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of February 4 - February 8, 2008**

1. **Piney Branch Pool Public Hearing:** A public hearing on whether the closed public indoor pool at Piney Branch Elementary School should be reopened or converted to a gymnasium will be held on Monday, February 11 at the special time of 6:45 pm. The hearing will be before the Takoma Park City Council, in the auditorium at 7500 Maple Avenue. *(Deputy City Manager)*
2. **Public Testimony:** On Tuesday, Mayor Bruce Williams testified on behalf of the City Council on the proposed Montgomery County Capital Budget before the County Council. On Thursday, Ward 3 Councilmember Dan Robinson testified on behalf of the City Council regarding WSSC's proposed 9.5% rate increase and \$20 month Infrastructure Renewal Fee before the WSSC Commissioners. *(Deputy City Manager)*
3. **Tuesday is Election Day:** Primary elections will be held on Tuesday, February 12. If you'd like to learn more about the local candidates, candidate forums of Montgomery County candidates are available to be viewed on the web at: http://www.accessmontgomery.tv/cn4_1_0.htm. If you're registered, but won't be able to get to the polls on Tuesday, walk-in absentee voting is possible at the Board of Elections office, 751 Twinbrook Parkway. Their hours are Saturday, 10-3 and Monday 8:30-5:00. More information can be obtained at www.777vote.org. *(Deputy City Manager)*
4. **Wireless Printing:** The Library now offers printing from your wireless laptop. You must be working in the Library and connected to the Library's wireless signal: Tplibrary. You may print up to five pages for 15 cents each. *(Library)*
5. **Nick at Night:** On February 4, Karen MacPherson presided at a special "Nicholas at Night" program, celebrating the "Nicholas" books created by author Rene Goscinny and illustrator Jean-Jacques Sempe nearly 50 years ago, which now have surged in popularity in France and elsewhere. *(Library)*
6. **Crafts for Hearts:** A Valentine craft-making program will be held at the Library on Monday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. Sign up by calling 301-891-7259, or by e-mailing Karen MacPherson at library-programs@spambob.net. *(Library)*
7. **Tween Secrets:** The 'Tween' book club will meet at 4:40 on February 8 in the Rose Room of the Community Center for a discussion of "Sixth Grade Secrets" by Louis Sachar. *(Library)*
8. **Babies & Bedtime Stories:** The "Lapsit" program for babies up through 12 months and their grown-ups continues every Wednesday morning in February. Registration is limited. Also, "Bedtime Story Hour" returns on February 25 at 7:00 p.m. Please call the Library at 301-891-7259 for more information. *(Library)*
9. **Jazz Band:** City TV will be covering the annual Jazz Band Brawl this Sunday Feb. 10 from 2:30 - 6 p.m., to be held at Takoma Station. *(CityTV)*
10. **Safe Routes to School (Citywide):** The City's Safe Routes to School program has produced a bi-annual newsletter with details on the progress of the program and

information on upcoming events and projects. The newsletter will be distributed, through the local schools, to over 3,000 households. (*Housing and Community Development*)

11. Maple Avenue/Sligo Creek Parkway/Hilltop Road Intersection Reconfiguration - Meeting February 13 (Wards 4 and 5): The City has funding from the Safe Routes to School Grant to reconstruct the intersection of Maple Avenue and Hilltop Road where they meet Sligo Creek Parkway in order to provide a safer crossing for pedestrians. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, February 13, at 6 p.m. to discuss the improvements. The meeting will be held at the intersection. (*Public Works*)

12. Pinecrest Neighborhood Traffic Calming Meeting (Ward 3): City Staff met with the Pinecrest neighborhood to discuss developing a traffic calming plan for testing Thursday, February 7. (*Housing and Community Development*)

13. New Partners for Smart Growth Conference: HCD staff attended the 7th annual New partnership for Smart Growth conference on Thursday, attending a number of sessions on the preservation of affordable housing, light impact development initiatives, the linkage of smart growth, climate change and sustainability, and sustainable urbanism. (*Housing and Community Development*)

14. UMD Urban Housing Policy Analysis: HCD staff met with the University of Maryland's urban housing policy students, providing insight on the city's affordable housing policies. The students will be evaluating how housing policies, programs and strategies promulgated by federal, state and county governments can complement the city's current affordable housing programming. The recommendations of the students will be available in early to mid May. (*Housing and Community Development*)

15. Free Poetry Workshops for Kids: Anne Becker, Takoma Park Poet Laureate, is offering a series of free poetry workshops for beginners and experienced writers alike from ages 8 to 18. The goal is to push ahead into new territory, to find, refine and amplify our voices. Various elements of poetry will be introduced in discussion and in reading model poems. Participants will write their own poems, read them to the group and receive feedback to deepen and enlarge their own understanding of what they have written. The poems generated by the workshop will be gathered into an anthology and published by the Arts and Humanities Commission. To register for one of the workshops, please call 301-891-7223. (*Housing and Community Development*)

16. Officers in Meetings:

- This week, Chief Ricucci conducted a promotional interview process for Sergeant, of which there were 10 candidates, interviewed over the course of two days.
- On February 6, CSAFE facilitated their biweekly HEAT Team meeting.
- On February 7, Chief Ricucci and Capt. Coursey attended the Police Rebate meeting in Rockville, Maryland, with county officials.
- On February 5, Capt. Coursey attended a planning meeting with MCPD staff regarding election day security measures. There are six polling places within the City of Takoma Park. Security measures will be a cooperative effort with the all of the policing agencies throughout the County. (*Police*)

17. Traffic Enforcement: Officers conducted at least 50 traffic stops this week, which resulted in some citations, nine (9) arrests, one (1) DUI and five (5) vehicle impounds. (*Police*)

18. **Yoga for Seniors:** Gentle Movement and Yoga for Seniors class is continuing with a new session and instructor this month. Ms. Bashira leads this six week class, which began 2/1/08, on Fridays 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Dance Studio. Seniors may still register for the class. For more information, call 301-891-7280. (*Recreation*)

19. **Health and Wellness:** Bozena Skraban, the Community Health Education Coordinator for Washington Adventist Hospital met with Paula Lisowski, Coordinator for Senior Programs and Carey Antoszewski, Recreation Manager, this week to brainstorm and develop a plan for new health and wellness classes and seminars for seniors, adults and youth. The planned activities are scheduled for Summer and Fall 2008. More information to come in the weeks ahead. (*Recreation*)

20. **Holla At Me - Teen Program:** "Holla At Me", an open forum for teen males, held its 4th session this past Wednesday. Twenty five (25) young men discussed dating and relationships with group moderator and recreation department staff member, Clayton White. The participants freely expressed their opinions on this matter while respecting differing opinions from other teens. The "Holla At Me" program meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday until June 18th. For more